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APR 02 2008

Third Preliminary Amendment

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Applicant(s): Guo et al.

Serial No. 10/539,241

Filed: 16 June 2005 (Parent: 16 December 2003)

For: pRNA CHIMERA

Remarks

Claims 1-8 and 17 having been amended; claim 9-16 and 19-27 having been cancelled, without prejudice; and claims 28-48 having been added; the pending claims are claims 1-8, 17, 18, and 28-48.

The amendments to claims 1-3 and 17 and new claims 28-32 reciting chimeric pRNA monomer and a heterologous component are supported, for example, by the specification at page 13, lines 10-11; page 25, line 32 through page 26, line 5; and page 53, line 18.

The amendments to claims 3 and 4 and new claims 31 and 32 reciting an end-labeling agent are supported, for example, by the specification at page 53, lines 29-30.

The amendment to claim 5 and new claims 36 and 48 reciting a circularly permuted pRNA are supported, for example, by the specification at page 21, lines 22-28.

The amendment to claim 6 and new claims 28 and 47 reciting non-circularly permuted pRNA are supported, for example, by Figure 22(IV).

The amendments to claims 7 and 8 and new claims 33-35, 37, 45, and 46 reciting nucleotide analog or modified nucleotide, and the amendments to claim 8 and new claims 34, 37, and 46 reciting 2'-F-2' deoxy nucleotide derivative, phosphorothioate, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide, and peptide nucleic acid (PNA) are supported, for example, by the specification at page 20, lines 5-10.

New claim 29 is supported, for example, by the specification at page 53, line 21 through page 54, line 3.

New claim 30 is supported, for example, by the specification at page 3, lines 14-16 and page 19, lines 20-24.

New claim 39 is supported, for example, by the specification at page 50, lines 19-21. New claims 40 and 41 are supported by the specification at, for example, page 50, lines 31-33. New claims 38 and 40 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 50, lines 17-19 and at page 50, line 31 through page 51, line 6.

New claims 40, 43, and 44 are supported by the specification at, for example, page 15, lines 8-11 and page 19, lines 20-24. New claim 42 is supported by the specification, for example, at page 27, lines 19-24. New claim 43 is supported by the specification at, for

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example, page 28, lines 15-25. New claim 44 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 33, line 32 through page 34, line 1.

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives at the telephone number listed below if there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Facsimile Cover Sheet and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 2nd day of April, 2008, at 1:05 pm (Central Time).

April 2, 2008
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Signature: Margaret S. WillisName: Margaret S. Willis